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Attorneys for United States of America

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

RONALD RICHMAN, ) No. C 07-5317 WHA

UNITED STATES.

Defendant.

COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

**Plaintiff**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE ANIMAL & PLANT  
HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, PET-  
LACY, and DOES 1 through 5, inclusive

### Defendants.

**STIPULATION  
REGARDING  
SETTLEMENT AND  
RELEASE  
AND ORDER**

No. C 08-3499 WHA

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT is made as of the 24th day of February, 2008, by and between the United States of America ("the United States"), Ronald Richman ("Plaintiff") and the County of Contra Costa ("Subrogee").

## RECITALS:

A. On or about October 18, 2007, Plaintiff filed an action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, entitled Ronald Richman v. United

1 States of America, et al., Case No. C-07-5317 ("the First Action"). Plaintiff sought to  
2 recover in the First Action recompense for injuries alleged suffered by Plaintiff as a  
3 result of an injury he sustained at or near Buchanan Airfield in Contra Costa County,  
4 California on or about October 24, 2005. On or about July 22, 2008, Subrogee filed an  
5 action in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, entitled  
6 County of Contra Costa v. United States of America, et al., Case No. C-08-53499 ("the  
7 Second Action"). In the Second Action, Subrogee sought to recover amounts paid by  
8 Subrogee in connection with the October 24, 2005, accident. On or about October 31,  
9 2008, federal district judge William H. Alsup consolidated the First Action with the  
10 Second Action thereby creating one, Consolidated Action.

11 B. The United States has not admitted any liability to Plaintiff or Subrogee  
12 arising out of any matter or event referred to in the Consolidated Action.

13 C. Plaintiff, Subrogee and the United States each have decided to effect a  
14 compromise and settlement of all claims of every kind and nature which Plaintiff and  
15 Subrogee may have against the United States arising from or relating in any way to any  
16 matter or event referred to in the Consolidated Action, on the terms and conditions set  
17 forth below.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing premises and the  
19 following promises, covenants and agreements, the parties hereto agree as follows:

20 **A G R E E M E N T:**

21 1. **Payment to Plaintiff.** As recompense in full for any damage(s) or other  
22 loss(es) of any kind (including, but not limited to, attorney's fees) which Plaintiff and  
23 Subrogee may have suffered as a result of any act or omission of any agent, officer or  
24 employee ("agent") of the United States, the United States shall pay to Plaintiff the sum  
25 of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00). Payment shall be made by  
26 electronic funds transfer ("EFT") into the client trust account maintained by Plaintiff's  
27 attorney into a bank account designated by Plaintiff. Plaintiff understands that  
28 because of the procedures required to be followed by the U.S. Treasury before monies  
may be disbursed from the United States' "judgment fund" from which payment is to be

1 made, payment usually takes as long as twelve weeks from the date upon which the  
 2 Treasury Department receives a fully executed copy of this Settlement Agreement,  
 3 together with the required Treasury Department forms to be completed by the United  
 4 States Attorney's Office.

5       2. **Release by Plaintiff.** In consideration of the promise of the United States  
 6 to make the payment set forth in paragraph 1 above, Plaintiff, on behalf of Plaintiff and  
 7 Plaintiff's respective heirs, successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever  
 8 discharges the United States and each and every agent thereof who may have  
 9 engaged in any conduct complained of by Plaintiff in the Consolidated Action, from any  
 10 and all claims, obligations, demands and liabilities whatsoever, in law or equity, which  
 11 Plaintiff had, now has or may have, or which in the future may arise, from or as a result  
 12 or in connection with, or for, any matter, cause, event, transaction, relation, or anything  
 13 whatsoever, whether known or unknown, or whether or not presently asserted, from the  
 14 beginning of time to the date of this Settlement Agreement, arising from, as a result of  
 15 or in connection with any matter(s) or event(s) referred to or complained of in the  
 16 Action, or related thereto in any way, other than any claim or obligation arising out of  
 17 this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff has considered and is aware of the possibility that  
 18 Plaintiff may not fully know the number and/or magnitude of each and every claim  
 19 which Plaintiff has or may have against the United States and/or any of its afore-  
 20 described agents as a result of or in connection with the matters referred to in the  
 21 Action. Plaintiff nevertheless intends to assume the risk that Plaintiff is releasing any  
 22 and all such claims, known or unknown, and Plaintiff agrees that this Settlement  
 23 Agreement is a full and final release of any and all such claims against the United  
 24 States and all of the afore-described agents, and to the extent that it may be applicable  
 25 Plaintiff hereby expressly waives the benefits of Cal. Civ. Code § 1542, which provides  
 26 that:

27                   A general release does not extend to claims which the  
 28 creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the  
                  time of executing the release, which if known by him must  
                  have materially affected his settlement with the debtor.

1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, this release shall not be deemed or construed to release  
2 the United States from any obligation of payment the United States may have pursuant  
3 to this Settlement Agreement, nor shall it affect any rights, duties or obligations of the  
4 United States or Plaintiff arising from or after the execution of this Settlement  
5 Agreement.

6 In consideration of the promise of the United States to make the payment set  
7 forth in paragraph 1 above, Subrogee, on behalf of Subrogee and Subrogee's  
8 respective heirs, successors and assigns, hereby releases and forever discharges the  
9 United States and each and every agent thereof who may have engaged in any conduct  
10 complained of by Subrogee in the Consolidated Action, from any and all claims,  
11 obligations, demands and liabilities whatsoever, in law or equity, which Subrogee had,  
12 now has or may have, or which in the future may arise, from or as a result or in  
13 connection with, or for, any matter, cause, event, transaction, relation, or anything  
14 whatsoever, whether known or unknown, or whether or not presently asserted, from the  
15 beginning of time to the date of this Settlement Agreement, arising from, as a result of  
16 or in connection with any matter(s) or event(s) referred to or complained of in the  
17 Consolidated Action, or related thereto in any way, other than any claim or obligation  
18 arising out of this Settlement Agreement. Subrogee has considered and is aware of the  
19 possibility that Subrogee may not fully know the number and/or magnitude of each and  
20 every claim which Subrogee has or may have against the United States and/or any of  
21 its afore-described agents as a result of or in connection with the matters referred to in  
22 the Consolidated Action. Plaintiff nevertheless intends to assume the risk that  
23 Subrogee is releasing any and all such claims, known or unknown, and Subrogee  
24 agrees that this Settlement Agreement is a full and final release of any and all such  
25 claims against the United States and all of the afore-described agents, and to the extent  
26 that it may be applicable Subrogee hereby expressly waives the benefits of Cal. Civ.  
27 Code § 1542, which provides that:

28 A general release does not extend to claims which the  
creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the  
time of executing the release, which if known by him must  
have materially affected his settlement with the debtor.

1 Notwithstanding the foregoing, this release shall not be deemed or construed to release  
 2 the United States from any obligation of payment the United States may have pursuant  
 3 to this Settlement Agreement, nor shall it affect any rights, duties or obligations of the  
 4 United States or Plaintiff arising from or after the execution of this Settlement  
 5 Agreement.

6       3.     **Dismissal of Proceedings.** As further consideration for the promise by  
 7 the United States to make the payment set forth in paragraph 1, Plaintiff and Subrogee  
 8 both promise, covenant and agree to execute and deliver, within two business days of  
 9 the execution of this Settlement Agreement, a stipulation for dismissal of the First  
 10 Action and the Second Action with prejudice, with each party to bear his/its own costs,  
 11 expenses and attorney's fees, if any.

12       4.     **No Assignment.** Plaintiff represents and warrants that Plaintiff has not  
 13 assigned, conveyed, granted, transferred or disposed of in any way to any person or  
 14 entity, any claim, demand, obligation, cause of action or other interest or right of any  
 15 kind which Plaintiff may have had, or may have or purport to have now or in the future,  
 16 against the United States or any agency or agent thereof, relating to, or arising (in  
 17 whole or in part) out of or in connection with, any matter, event, act or omission  
 18 complained of in the Consolidated Action.

19       Subrogee represents and warrants that Subrogee has not assigned, conveyed,  
 20 granted, transferred or disposed of in any way to any person or entity, any claim,  
 21 demand, obligation, cause of action or other interest or right of any kind which  
 22 Subrogee may have had, or may have or purport to have now or in the future, against  
 23 the United States or any agency or agent thereof, relating to, or arising (in whole or in  
 24 part) out of or in connection with, any matter, event, act or omission complained of in  
 25 the Consolidated Action.

26       5.     **Forbearance From Suit; Indemnification.** Plaintiff and Subrogee each  
 27 promise, covenant and agree that each will forever refrain and forbear from  
 28 commencing, instituting or prosecuting any lawsuit, action or other proceeding of any  
 kind (including, but not limited to, any administrative proceeding) against the United

1 States or any past, present or future agent thereof, based upon or arising out of any  
2 claim, debt, liability, demand, obligation or cause of action that is released and  
3 discharged by reason of this Settlement Agreement.

4 Plaintiff agrees to, and shall, indemnify and hold harmless the United States, and  
5 all agencies and agents thereof, from, against and with respect to any and all liabilities,  
6 damages, losses, claims, demands, costs and expenses (including, but not limited to,  
7 attorney's fees or other costs of defense) arising from or as a result of the  
8 commencement, institution or prosecution of by Plaintiff, or any person claiming under,  
9 by or through Plaintiff, of any lawsuit, action or proceeding in violation of this paragraph.

10 Similarly, Subrogee agrees to, and shall, indemnify and hold harmless the United  
11 States, and all agencies and agents thereof, from, against and with respect to any and  
12 all liabilities, damages, losses, claims, demands, costs and expenses (including, but not  
13 limited to, attorney's fees or other costs of defense) arising from or as a result of the  
14 commencement, institution or prosecution of by Subrogee, or any person claiming  
15 under, by or through Subrogee, of any lawsuit, action or proceeding in violation of this  
16 paragraph.

17 **6. Third-Party Beneficiaries.** Plaintiff and Subrogee acknowledge and  
18 agree that each and every agent of the United States referred to in paragraphs 1 and/or  
19 2 above, whether or not any such agent is specifically named in either of those  
20 paragraphs or in the complaints filed in the First Action and the Second Action, is an  
21 intended third-party beneficiary of this Settlement Agreement. Without limitation of the  
22 foregoing, each such third-party beneficiary shall be entitled to assert the release set  
23 forth in paragraph 2 as an absolute defense to any claim in any lawsuit, action or  
24 proceeding of any kind brought by either Plaintiff or Subrogee, or any person claiming  
25 under, by or through Plaintiff or Subrogee, relating to or arising (in whole or in part) out  
26 of or in connection with any matter, event, act or omission complained of in the  
27 Consolidated Action. Also without limitation of the foregoing, each such third-party  
28 beneficiary shall be entitled to assert in his/her/its own name the indemnity provisions of  
paragraph 5 of this Settlement Agreement in the event Plaintiff, Subrogee , or any

1 person claiming under, by or through Plaintiff or Subrogee, commences, institutes or  
2 prosecutes any lawsuit, action or proceeding against that third-party beneficiary in  
3 violation of paragraph 5.

4       **7. No Admissions.** The United States, Subrogee and Plaintiff each  
5 acknowledge and agree that this Settlement Agreement is a compromise settlement of  
6 disputed claims, and that neither anything in this Settlement Agreement nor the  
7 settlement itself shall be deemed or construed to constitute an admission of any kind  
8 (including, but not limited to, an admission of liability or of any factual or legal matter) by  
9 Plaintiff, Subrogee or the United States.

10       **8. Attorneys' Fees and Costs.** The United States, Subrogee and Plaintiff  
11 each acknowledges and agrees that as part of the consideration for entering into this  
12 Settlement Agreement, each party shall bear all attorneys' fees, expenses and costs of  
13 litigation (including, but not limited to, filing fees, deposition/transcript fees, expert  
14 witness fees, and travel costs) incurred by that party, and that neither the United States,  
15 nor Subrogee, nor the Plaintiff shall be liable to the other party for any such attorneys'  
16 fees, expenses or costs.

17       **9. Agreement Read and Understood; Advice of Counsel.** Plaintiff  
18 represents and warrants that Plaintiff has read this Settlement Agreement in its entirety  
19 and understands the meaning and significance of the terms used in this Settlement  
20 Agreement, and that Plaintiff has obtained advice of counsel in connection with  
21 deciding to enter into this Settlement Agreement. Plaintiff further represents and  
22 warrants that Plaintiff understands the consequences of entering into this Settlement  
23 Agreement, and that Plaintiff in entering into this Settlement Agreement Plaintiff is  
24 acting freely and voluntarily, without any coercion of any kind.

25       Subrogee represents and warrants that Subrogee has read this Settlement  
26 Agreement in its entirety and understands the meaning and significance of the terms  
27 used in this Settlement Agreement, and that Subrogee has obtained advice of counsel  
28 in connection with deciding to enter into this Settlement Agreement. Subrogee further  
represents and warrants that Subrogee understands the consequences of entering into

1 this Settlement Agreement, and that Subrogee in entering into this Settlement  
2 Agreement Subrogee is acting freely and voluntarily, without any coercion of any kind.

3 **10. Entire Agreement; No Modifications; Counterparts.** This Settlement  
4 Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties hereto with respect to  
5 the subject matter of this Settlement Agreement, and it replaces and supersedes any  
6 and all prior and/or contemporaneous oral or written representations, agreements or  
7 understandings of any kind with respect to the Consolidated Action and settlement of  
8 the Consolidated Action between on the one hand, Plaintiff and Subrogee and on the  
9 other hand, the United States and its agents. This Settlement Agreement may not be  
10 modified other than by a written modification signed by the party against whom such  
11 modification is asserted. Plaintiff and Subrogee acknowledge that in the case of the  
12 United States any such modification must be approved and authorized in writing by the  
13 appropriate official(s) of the United States Department of Justice. This Settlement  
14 Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be  
15 effective but all of which together shall constitute only one agreement.

16 **SO STIPULATED.**

17 MARCH 16, 2009  
18 DATED: February, 2009



19 Plaintiff, Ronald Richman

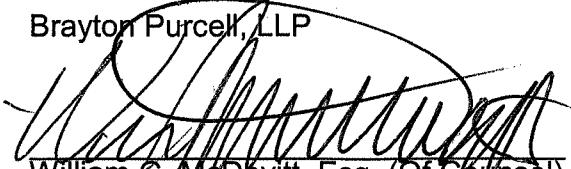
20 **STATEMENT OF COUNSEL:**

21 The undersigned represents and warrants as follows:  
22 (1) The undersigned represents and has acted as counsel  
23 for Plaintiff in the Action; and (2) The undersigned has read  
the foregoing Settlement Agreement, explained its terms to  
Plaintiff, and provided counsel and advice to Plaintiff with  
respect to the consequences to Plaintiff of execution of  
this Settlement Agreement.

25  
26 MARCH 19, 2009  
27 DATED: February, 2009

28 By

Brayton Purcell, LLP



William G. McDevitt, Esq. (Of Counsel)  
Attorneys for Ronald Richman

Joseph P. Russoniello  
United States Attorney

1  
2 DATED: February, 2009

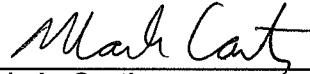
3 By

4   
5 ABRAHAM A. SIMMONS  
6 Assistant United States Attorney  
7 Attorneys for the United States

8  
9 Thomas, Lyding, Cartier & Gaus, LLP

10 DATED: March 17, 2009

11 By

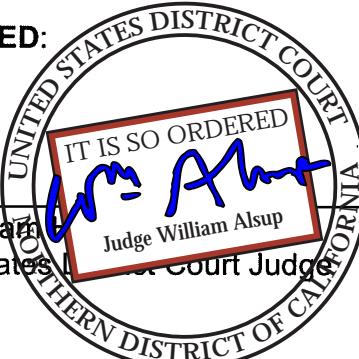
12   
13 Mark A. Cartier  
14 Attorneys for County of Contra Costa

15 **[PROPOSED] ORDER**

16 **PURSUANT TO STIPULATION IT IS SO ORDERED:**

17 April 16, 2009

18 Date

19 Hon. William A. Alsup  
20 United States District Court Judge  
21 

22 The Clerk shall close the file.